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ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in word format (file name: 27820-Review.docx).

Title: Cost of illness among patients with diabetic foot ulcer in Turkey

Author: Ergun Oksuz, Simten Malhan, Bilge Sonmez, Rukiye Numanoglu Tekin

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Diabetes*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 27820

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Reviewer 1

Comments:

Statistical details on Montecarlo simulation are needed.

Reply:

We add some information about Monte Carlo Simulation in method section.

Reviewer 2

Comments:

It is clear that diabetes mellitus has become a major global health problem. Diabetic foot ulcer is a major complication of diabetes, in many cases is correlated with peripheral artery disease, and could lead to amputations. These certainly affect healthcare costs and impose a substantial burden on taxpayers. In the present study, Oksuz and colleagues evaluate the annual cost of patients with diabetic foot ulcers in Turkey. For this, they used available data from government reports. The study provides a summary of the data based on different categories. The authors also used Monte Carlo Simulation to provide a sensitivity analysis. Finally, they compared their results with those observed in other countries. In general, the manuscript is well written, straightforward and very descriptive. The authors however, should do an effort to put all these numbers into context and clearly indicate what is the relevance of the study to treatment/management of diabetic foot ulcer, as well as the impact on Turkey's healthcare cost. First sentence of the introduction should be revised. Diabetes mellitus is already a health problem. The 400K cases/year DFU is a staggering number. Are these new cases/year or total? For transparency, hyperlinks to all reports used to gather data should be provided here. Also, the parameters for the Monte Carlo Simulation should be provided. Methods and formulas should be described. Finally, the authors should better described what they mean by sensitivity analysis?

Reply:

Total DFU hospital and patient information are from Ministry of Health data in Turkey. It is not



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annually, it is cumulative number. We add explanation of Monte Carlo Simulation in method section. The Monte Carlo simulation and random numbers use are explained in method section. And subgroup analysis results about simulation are offered at Table 7.

Reviewer 3

Comments:

In this study, authors provided the data in regarding the cost of patients with diabetic foot ulcer in Turkey. As this study adds this data from Turkey to the database about the cost among patients with diabetic foot ulcer over the world, therefore it is good to publish this observational study in WJD and also relevant for the readership of WJD. SPECIFIC COMMENTS: Please clarify two points following: 1, Which journal is for this paper submission, World Journal of Diabetes or World Journal of Orthopedics? 2, Is this study observational or retrospective? Title: The title reflects the major topic and contents of the study; however the running title is missing. Abstract and core tip: They are well written and briefly summarized the study. Introduction: It is well written. Materials and methods: Authors clearly described the "Cost-of-Illness" (COI) methodology and how to use this method in this study. The assessment and evaluation of the main total expenses are also well introduced. However, in this section, authors should indicated that where the data come from, all from previous publications or only part data from previous publications. Materials should be mentioned better with clearly introducing the data origin. Results: The results are clearly and in detail mentioned. Discussion: In the discussion, authors described the similar studies from several other countries and regions. It may be better to compare which cost is the same and which cost is different between Turkey and other countries. The reason for the similarity or difference should be briefly discussed. Further authors may be better to provide some suggestions for how to reduce the cost in relation to the cost of illness among patients with diabetic foot ulcer, which will make more sense for the paper. Conclusion: It is OK. References: The references are appropriate, relevant, and updated. Tables: The tables are well presented. Minor comments: Authors use the word "said" many times through the paper, for example "said amount", "said studies", "said disease", "said patients" and so on. Could authors find better words to express the same meaning?

Reply:

The cost of illness section evaluated from observational study group. Running title is added. The data comes from both real world data and published literature. The information about data is added. In discussion part, the results are compared with the other countries results. In result section, we try to explain how we reduced the cost of DFU.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Diabetes*.

Sincerely yours,

Prof.Dr. Ergun Oksuz, MD.